

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08  
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03  
H-01 PA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00  
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07  
/134 W

-----120599 091702Z /53

R 081911Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2535  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 01756

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ECRE, ENGR, BENC, TD  
SUBJECT: GOTT CANCELS BECHTEL CONTRACT WITH TRINIDAD AND  
TOBAGO OIL COMPANY

1. THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THE GOTT, SOLE SHARE-  
HOLDER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO OIL COMPANY (TRINTOC), HAS  
INSTRUCTED TRINTOC TO CANCEL ITS CONTRACT FOR MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES WITH BECHTEL CORPORATION. CONTRACT WAS OPEN  
ENDED, AND TRINTOC'S MANAGING DIRECTOR (WALTON JAMES) SAID  
TERMINATION WAS BEING CARRIED OUT AMICABLY. SERVICES PRO-  
VIDED TO TRINTOC BY BECHTEL WERE LARGELY THOSE OF CON-  
SULTANT TO MANAGEMENT ON UPGRADING OF POINT FORTIN  
REFINERY.

2. TRINTOC WAS NOT UNHAPPY WITH BECHTEL'S PERFORMANCE,  
ALTHOUGH JAMES SAID ANY NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR SIMILAR  
SERVICES WOULD BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THOSE THEY HAD  
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WITH BECHTEL. THIS IS IN PART BECAUSE TRINTOC'S OWN PER-  
SONNEL HAVE IN THE INTERIM BECOME MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND  
COULD DO MORE FOR THEMSELVES AS A RESULT OF THEIR ASSOCI-  
ATION WITH BECHTEL.

3. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BECHTEL AND TRINTOC ARE STILL  
GOING ON, AND JAMES DOES NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT

THERE WILL STILL BE A ROLE FOR BECHTEL IN THE REFINERY PROJECT, WHICH HAS NOT YET REACHED THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION STAGE.

4. JAMES SUGGESTED THAT GOTT'S REASON FOR SEEKING ALTERNATIVE TO BECHTEL CONTRACT THROUGH OTHER GOVERNMENTS WAS PART OF A BROADER GOTT EFFORT TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS. WHATEVER THE REASON, THE DECISION WAS EVIDENTLY TAKEN BY PM WILLIAMS AS A MATTER OF POLICY, AND DOES NOT REFLECT ADVERSELY ON BECHTEL.

5. COMMENT. THE POSSIBLE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL SERVICES ON REFINERY DEVELOPMENT WAS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED IN BILATERAL MEETINGS OVER THE SEVERAL MONTHS BETWEEN GOTT AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FRANCE, SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON THIS CONTEXT. MEETINGS WERE AN INTEGRAL PART OF PM WILLIAMS' STRATEGY TO ESTABLISH CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE ITS TRADITIONAL TRADING CIRCLES (IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE, COLOMBIA AND BRAZIL, FOR EXAMPLE). THESE EFFORTS HAVE SOMETIMES TAKEN THE FORM OF INVITING HIGH LEVEL DELEGATIONS (OFFICIAL, BUSINESS, AND BANKING) TO VISIT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PM (CONTENTS OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY REVEALED), AND SENDING MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MISSIONS ABROAD. THE POLICY IS PARTLY A RESULT OF WILLIAMS' DISILLUSIONMENT  
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WITH THE CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET. IT REFLECTS EQUALLY THE INCREASING DE FACTO DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY, THROUGH THE INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. FIRMS AS PARTNERS AND CONTRACTORS ON THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AS WELL AS THE RELIANCE ON THE U.S. AS A MARKET FOR THE OUTPUT OF THESE PLANTS. FOX

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MANAGEMENT, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, CONTRACTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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